

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, ET, SO
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - AGENDA ITEM 6: ASSISTANCE
TO REFUGEES OF THE OGADEN

REF: GENEVA 10234

1. AS INDICATED IN PARA 4 REFTTEL, ECOSOC LEFT OPEN QUESTION OF INCLUSION OF ITEM 6 OF ITS PROVISIONAL AGENDA (ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES OF THE OGADEN) PENDING AFRICAN GROUP EFFORTS TO RESOLVE DISPUTE BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA ON INCLUSION. USDEL HAS NOW BEEN INFORMED BY SOMALIS THAT THESE EFFORTS AT COMPROMISE DID NOT SUCCEED AND THAT QUESTION OF INCLUSION OF AGENDA ITEM WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY VOTE IN THE PLENARY. IN A SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH PORTUGUESE DEL WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO COME UP ON EITHER FRIDAY THE 21ST OR MONDAY THE 24TH. THE PROBLEM ACCORDING TO THE PORTUGUESE WAS THAT ETHIOPIANS WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT A COMPROMISE, STRICTLY LIMITING DISCUSSION TO HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS. THE ETHIOPIAN OBSERVER HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT THEIR POSITION REMAINS THAT THE MATTER SHOULD NOT BE ON THE AGENDA - - THE ITEM HAVING BEEN ADDED BY THE SPRING ECOSOC IN
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THE ABSENCE OF AN ETHIOPIAN OBSERVER.

2. SOMALIS HAVE ASKED FOR OUR SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION OF THE AGENDA ITEM. IN DELEGATION'S VIEW, IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN POLICY OF WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS EVEN ITEMS UNWELCOME TO US WERE WE NOT TO SUPPORT INCLUSION OF THIS ITEM, PARTICULARLY AS IT HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO

AT PREVIOUS SESSION. ABSTENTION IS OF COURSE A POSSIBILITY BUT THIS WOULD SEEM TO ACQUIESCE IN POLITICIZATION OF WHAT SHOULD BE A SIMPLE ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTION.

3. DELEGATION WOULD OF COURSE TAKE AN EVEN-HANDED POSITION IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ITEM OR ON ANY RESOLUTION THAT MIGHT COME OUT OF IT. IN THIS CONTEXT, REPRESENTATIVE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS TOLD US THAT THE PROBLEM INVOLVES REFUGEES FROM THE OGADEN IN SOMALIA, DJIBOUTI AND ETHIOPIA ITSELF AND THAT HIS AGENCY IS INVOLVED IN ASSISTANCE TO ALL THREE GROUPS. HE SAID THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD APPEALED FOR \$12.5 MILLION FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ALREADY HAD \$10 MILLION.

4. DEPT'S GUIDANCE REQUESTED URGENTLY. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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